

# INSIDE STRI

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

DECEMBER 2006

## Robots Take On Risky Job to Save Soldiers' Lives

By Kristen Dooley

The Project Manager for Instrumentation, Targets and Threat Simulators, a subsidiary of the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI), provides contracting, logistical and engineering support for the procurement and replacement of robotic systems. In the last fiscal year, PEO STRI awarded \$88 million in robotic systems contracts.

Approximately 4,000 robots perform contingency operations in Middle Eastern combat zones. These unmanned ground systems allow military personnel to safely investigate potential Improvised Explosive Devices and anti-personnel mines.

"The robots perform missions that are inherently dangerous to the Warfighter, such as explosive ordnance detection and disposal," said Glenn Daens, an acquisition logistician for PEO STRI.

Currently, the robotic systems



A U.S. Army Soldier deployed to Mosul, Iraq, prepares his robot to safely dispose of a potential bomb.

require human operation of the robot and associated equipment, however much of the risk associated with investigating explosives is alleviated.

"A good example of this is the utilization of robots in the EOD

[Explosive Ordnance Disposal] mission. In the past, an EOD technician would suit up in heavy gear, probe suspicious items and disarm or dispose [the explosive]," said Daens. "EOD technicians can now perform

Continued on page 2

## Citizen STRI

“What do you wish for most this holiday season?”

Want your opinion heard? Answer January's Question! **What is your New Year's resolution?** Send your response to [kristen.dooley@us.army.mil](mailto:kristen.dooley@us.army.mil) and put Citizen STRI in the subject line.



**Barry Drabczyk**  
PSG

"I wish that all troops serving overseas could be home with their families this holiday season."



**Robbin Finley**  
PM ITTS

"My wish for this holiday season is good health for my family and friends."



**James Grosse**  
PSG

"Obviously \$10M is at the top of my list...."



**Stephen Lopez-Couto**  
PM ConSim

"I wish that I could come up with a present for my wife that does not require that a gift receipt to be attached to it."







## A Holiday Message from the PEO

As the holidays rapidly approach, we need to take the time to enjoy the season with our family and friends. This is also an excellent time to relax, unwind and recharge our batteries.

For many, the holidays can bring significant stress and worry. Whether it's the cost of travel and gifts or a number of other stressful issues, we must remember to watch out for each other, stay focused, and use sound judgment when making decisions this holiday season.

This is the time of the year when many of us will be traveling to visit loved ones. Think safety! We must ensure our plans are well thought out and options are available should something go awry. We must confirm that our vehicles are in good operating condition and ready to face the rigors of road travel. We must also remember to properly secure our homes during our absence. Whether on the road or in the air, be alert and aware of the surroundings, and take an extra second to build safety into the travel itinerary.

The holidays should be a time of hope and promise. Let's reflect on the challenges and successes of 2006 and prepare ourselves to start 2007 with a renewed focus.

This year, in a time when the majority of our military is serving around the world, many of America's sons and daughters are unable to spend the holidays at home with their loved ones. Please take a moment to honor these brave men and women who are protecting us and fighting for freedom.

As we give thanks for our many personal blessings and the blessings of our Nation, let us also renew our commitment to work for a future of peace and prosperity.

Thanks to you, PEO STRI is the best acquisition agency in the Army. Your unwavering commitment to our mission and Soldiers is unparalleled, and you continue to outperform the high standards expected of us. I am extremely proud to work with each of you.

Sharon and I wish you and yours a holiday season filled with joy and a Happy New Year!

Robotics article... continued from front page

this mission using a robot to identify explosive ordnance using various sensors and in some cases can disarm the device or dispose of it by blowing it in place all while maintaining a safe distance."

In addition to the U.S. Army, robots will be used by other services including the U.S. Marine Corps, the Special Operations Command, the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, the Naval EOD, and the Rapid Equipping Force.

The Robotic Systems Joint Project Office (RS JPO) repairs, supports and sustains all robotics systems. The office was chartered by the Army Acquisition Executive and is delegated as the full-

line authority of the Program Executive Office for Ground Combat Systems for centralized management of projects.

The role of the RS JPO has grown significantly to satisfy the needs of the Warfighter in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The RS JPO anticipates that PEO STRI should exceed \$200 million in contracts by fiscal-year 2007.

"Continued growth is expected as more line units are requesting robots to support their missions. New requirements are frequently generated due to rapidly changing tactics, techniques and procedures. As the number of fielded systems grows, the logistical support required will increase

as well," said Duane St. Peter, contract specialist for robotic systems.

PEO STRI has contributed to the program since 2005 through the acquisition and replacement of systems, spare parts and training required for RS JPO to pursue its mission.

"RS JPO was familiar with PEO STRI based on past business relationships and was seeking an acquisition center that had the capacity and desire to accept new requirements and rapidly turn those requirements into contract actions," said St. Peter. "PEO STRI accepted the challenge and has since awarded over \$100 million in contracts in direct support of the RS JPO." ■



# Take Aim at Security Risks

By Bill Osborne

**H**ave you ever been waiting for a flight at an airport or seated in a restaurant and quite unintentionally overhear the conversation of persons seated next to you? Would you know what to do if you were approached by someone you didn't know who requested information regarding a Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI) program? Do you plan to go to the Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference? Have you made plans to attend any conferences, expositions or seminars available to us as employees of PEO STRI? Any one of these venues could be considered a "target rich environment" by a person trained in elicitation.

One of the most common ways operatives acquire intelligence is through elicitation, a technique applied to the subtle extraction of information during an apparently normal and innocent conversation. Most operatives are very well trained to take advantage of professional and social venues to interact with persons who have access to classified and sensitive information.

Elicitation is especially hard for a target to recognize it as an intelligence collection technique and it is easy for an operative to deny any intentional wrongdoing and explain it away as just pleasant conversation among colleagues.

As an intelligence technique, elicitation exploits several aspects of human nature:

- Most of us want to be polite and helpful, so we answer questions even from relative strangers.
- We want to appear well-informed about our professional specialty, so we may be tempted to say more than we should.
- We want to be appreciated and to feel that we are doing something important and useful. As a result, we often talk more expansively in response to praise about the value or importance of our work.
- As open and honest people, we are often reluctant to withhold information, lie, or be suspicious of others' motives.

What should you do? You should feel free to expand your professional and personal horizons by meeting with colleagues, as long as you keep in mind that not everyone you meet has the best intentions. Follow these rules when talking with anyone:

- Never talk about your personal problems or about the personal problems or weaknesses of one of your co-workers.

Such information may be exactly what an operative might need to exploit and recruit someone.

- If the conversation is moving into a sensitive area, change the subject or simply ignore any improper question. You are not obligated to tell anyone any information they are not authorized to know.

- To discourage someone who seems too pushy about discussing sensitive information or arranging a private meeting with you, state that you would have to clear this with your security office. This is the last thing an intelligence operative wants to hear and it usually causes them to back off immediately.

Foreign nationals should not be perceived as a threat. Furthermore, every conversation you have with a foreign national is not an attempt at elicitation. While we tend to think of the threat as foreign, it could just as easily be domestic. Be aware of the conversations you have with strangers and the requests you receive for information. Understand how easily information can be elicited from someone.

Many of us will spend an entire career never once becoming an intelligence collection target. On the other hand, some of us may have already been targeted in the past or will be in the future. The one certainty is the threat will not go away.

If you don't remember anything else from this article, remember the word "REPORT." If you feel you have been the target of an elicitation attempt, if you have been asked for information from an unauthorized person, or you unintentionally released information to someone not entitled to have that information, REPORT the details to your security office immediately.

When everyone does their part, the protection of potentially sensitive information represents a highly effective countermeasure toward mitigating the threat of intelligence collection.

Tactics in tradecraft are constantly evolving and operatives use technology to their advantage. You will never be immune to the threat, but your awareness and willingness to deny information to potential adversaries will certainly mitigate the risk. Intelligence officers prey on complacency and inattention. Security awareness is the key. ■



Courtesy Photo

## Intelligence Collection Disciplines

**Technical intelligence** precludes technological surprise by an armed force. New technology, weapons and equipment in the early stages of their acquisition timeline are especially vulnerable. Advanced knowledge of technology, weapons and equipment could enable an adversary to develop an effective countermeasure quicker and nullify any technological advantage a new system might have given the Soldier.

**Open Source intelligence** involves collecting and analyzing information to produce usable intelligence. This includes a wide variety of information and sources such as newspapers, magazines, websites, government budget reports, legislative debates, contracts, conferences, symposia and academic papers. Open source information can fill gaps and create links that allow analysts to better understand other pieces of intelligence collected by other means. An intelligence analyst may not have to engage intelligence assets (agents) in clandestine or covert collection activities if he can corroborate information using multiple sources for the same targeted information.

**Human intelligence**, information collected from a human source, is commonly referred to as espionage. Those sources may be friendly (allies), defectors, refugees, non-governmental organizations, media personnel/organizations or volunteers, to name a few. Clandestine operations (spying) are dangerous and there are very high risks associated with it; however elicitation, considered by many to be the most common, is a low risk and inexpensive activity.



# Attn: Any Soldier Re: Happy Holidays

By Kristen Dooley

During the holidays, employees of the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI) are especially encouraged to give back to those who are making the ultimate sacrifice to protect freedom, democracy, and basic human rights.

The Department of Defense established a website to enable this outreach: [www.americasupportsyoudmil](http://www.americasupportsyoudmil). Many organizations that are providing support to the Warfighter are listed on the website.

President George W. Bush paid a special compliment to a particular organization featured on [www.americasupportsyoudmil](http://www.americasupportsyoudmil):

"During this time in our country's history, we look to our military personnel to fight terrorism and extend freedom. By answering the call of duty, our men and women in uniform serve as examples of patriotism and dedication. Thank you for supporting these brave individuals who are willing to support a cause greater than self."

The initiative was incited by a U.S. Soldier, Sgt. Brian Horn of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He asked his parents to create a website that would help people send care packages to those deployed in combat zones who did not receive mail.

Sgt. Horn's parents fulfilled his request by creating [www.ansoldier.com](http://www.ansoldier.com). Since the program's inception during the 2003 holiday season, the American people

have overwhelmingly responded to the campaign.

"The Any Soldier campaign has seen tears from some, given hope to most, and has been inspirational to us all," Sgt. Horn said. "The relentless support has provided the simple reminder that any one of us would proudly die for a grateful nation in our ongoing fight against terrorism."

Today, the American people are still sending letters and care packages through Any Soldier, Inc. Nearly 3,000 Soldiers have benefited from the campaign.

"To have been able to distribute the mail personally as a contact to Soldiers who get next to no mail at all and for that brief moment see the look of hope in their faces of good things to come," Sgt. Horn said.

Sgt. Horn emphasized the sentiment of the Soldiers receiving the packages:

"The hope that somebody out there does care. That somebody does in fact love them as they deservingly should be loved. The hope that some day their involvement in the fight on terror was to preserve those that believed in them so much through and through, until their fight was done. We fight so that maybe, just maybe, your grandchildren won't have to."

To send a care package, write a letter or receive more information on Any Soldier, Inc., visit [www.ansoldier.com](http://www.ansoldier.com). ■

## ★ America Contributes ★

### The most sought-after items include:

- Care packages
- Phone cards
- Health and hygiene items
- Nonperishable food
- Letters

## ★ The Soldiers Respond ★

"We are all trying, in our own way, to get in the holiday spirit. Should be interesting what kind of fun and interesting things we come up with! If anyone can help us out getting the gingerbread house building kits that would be awesome."

**Spc. Tammy Splittstoesser, FOB Salerno, Afghanistan**

"Thank you so much for all the support, both in the form of letters and care packages, over the past months. Your contributions have made the transition from home life to a life in a hostile country more bearable. The team is doing great and they are certainly appreciative of all the times sent, from food to baby wipes to magazines to t-shirts. Thank you."

**Capt. Gregory Andres, Tel Afar, Iraq**

"Thank you all for your continuous support to all the Soldiers over here. It is November now and time seems to be flying by. This is the time of the year that the Soldiers' morale usually gets a little low due to the holidays. Thanks to great Americans like all of you, the Soldiers' holidays will be a little brighter."

**Capt. Jeffrey DeMayo, Kirkuk, Iraq**



# FEDS: Flexible Spending Account Yields Savings

By Kristen Dooley

**T**he Flexible Spending Account for Federal employees (FSAFEDS) saves military and civilian personnel money by allowing them to set aside pre-tax funds to pay for a variety of common, out-of-pocket health and dependent care expenses. The Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation's (PEO STRI) employees, along with the entire federal workforce, can enroll in the program until Dec. 11 for the upcoming benefit period.

"There are probably many federal employees who have yet to take the time to see if an FSA might be advantageous to them. An FSA is not an insurance plan. It allows you to pay for eligible out-of-pocket expenses using pre-tax dollars," Mae Hazelton, PEO STRI personnel resources manager, said.

Employees enrolled in FSAFEDS can save up to 40-percent on everyday health and dependent care expenses and may elect up to \$5,000 per year for each FSAFEDS account.

The three accounts are the Health Care Flexible Spending Account (HCFSFA), the Limited Expense Flexible Spending Account (LEX HCFSFA) and the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account (DCFSFA).

The HCFSFA covers expenses outside of the Federal Employees Health Benefit (FEHB) program, the Federal Employee Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), and other insurance plans.

For example, some of the expenses employees with HCFSFA can get reimbursed for include chiropractic care, diabetic supplies, laser eye surgery, orthodontics, over-the-counter medicines, smoking cessation programs and sunscreen.

The LEX HCFSFA is an abbreviated version of the HCFSFA program and allows employees to use their accumulated funds for eligible dental and vision expenses not covered by another insurance plan.

Some of the LEX HCFSFA eligible expenses include fillings, denture care, eyeglasses, contact lenses, and vision correction procedures.

The last of the three accounts is the DCFSFA, which pays for eligible dependent care expenses that allow the employee and his or her spouse to work, look for work, or attend school full-time.

DCFSFA also covers eligible expenses for the care of dependent children under the age of 13 and a person of any age that an employee claims as a dependent on their federal tax return who is mentally or physically incapable of self-care.

Under DCFSFA, some of the eligible reimbursements

include childcare, after-school programs, and au pair expenses.

Although FSAFEDS allows federal employees to save money, most PEO STRI employees have not joined the program. Those that are enrolled in FSAFEDS are overwhelmingly pleased with their savings.

"I'm surprised how little most employees know of the FSA program," said Kaye Donovan, a PEO STRI employee who has been enrolled in FSAFEDS for three years. "I've been trying to spread the word about the program since its inception in 2003. For those with medical deductibles and dependent care, this program is a terrific benefit."

For employees interested in FSAFEDS, they can easily utilize the program by completing four steps. First, they must determine how much money they want to set aside for the year; they may save up to \$5,000 per year, but no less than \$250.

Second, the employee must enroll online at [www.FSAFEDS.com](http://www.FSAFEDS.com) and click the "Enroll Now" link. Employees may also enroll by phone by calling 1-877-FSAFEDS.

Next, when the employee incurs an eligible expense, they must first pay for it out-of-pocket. Then, they are to fill out a claims form and fax or mail it to FSAFEDS with the appropriate documentation. Paperless reimbursement is also an option through [www.FSAFEDS.com](http://www.FSAFEDS.com).

Lastly, claims are reimbursed daily Monday through Friday in the order they are received. The money is wired directly to the employee's checking or savings account via an electronic funds transfer.

"FSAs are not complicated, but there is important information that you should be aware of before you enroll," Hazelton said. ■

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For more information on the program, visit [www.FSAFEDS.com](http://www.FSAFEDS.com), call 1-877-FSAFEDS, or e-mail a representative at [FSAFEDS@shps.com](mailto:FSAFEDS@shps.com).

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**FSA  
FEDS**





# LEGAL CORNER



By Laura Cushler

## 10 Tips for Safe Online Holiday Shopping

The holiday shopping season has begun and the traffic is terrific! Many shoppers decide that it is easier to shop online and have gifts delivered right to the front door instead of fighting the crowds at the malls. If you decide to make some online purchases this season, here are some consumer safety tips to help you to avoid disappointments and rip-offs:

**1. Use Companies You Know.** Anyone can open a store online in minutes and be gone tomorrow. Make sure that you are familiar with the store or do some research. Check the following information:

- The business name, address, and phone number should be posted on the website. Compare it with the domain register at [www.internic.net/whois.html](http://www.internic.net/whois.html).
- A return policy. We all hope we get what we expect when shopping online, but sometimes problems occur. Check the company's return policy before you order so that you know what to expect.

Check with the Better Business Bureau (BBB) for complaints ([www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org)). If there is a BBB symbol on the website, try to click it and ensure that it is actually a link to the legitimate site.

**2. Make Sure the Server is Secure.** Before entering any credit card information online, make sure you are on a secure server.

- Make sure that the URL address begins with <https://>.
- Look for the closed padlock symbol in the status bar. If you cannot see the status bar, click "View" and "Status Bar."

**3. Never Give Out Your Social Security Number or Date of Birth.** Such information is never necessary to make an online retail purchase. If a company requires your SSN or DOB, do not do business with them.

**4. Compare Prices.** If the price is too low there may be something wrong. The item might be used or the vendor may be trying a "bait and switch" scam.

**5. Use a Credit Card, Not a Debit Card.** A debit card provides access directly to your bank account. In addition, debit cards do not offer the protection provided by the Fair Credit Billing Act (FCBA). In most cases under the FCBA, if someone steals your credit card information and charges purchases, the most liability you could face is \$50. In addition, with a credit card, you can protest a charge to the credit card company for anything that you did not order or if you never receive the item you ordered.

**6. Consider Using the Phone.** If you do not feel comfortable entering your credit card information online, call the company and place your order over the phone.

**7. Print and Keep Information About Your Order.** Print out your receipt and order information and keep it in a safe place. Print out other significant information such as return policies, warranty information, company information, and specific product information.

**8. Use Secure Passwords.** Choose a password that will not be easy to hack. Use the same methods you use for your PEO STRI and AKO passwords, such as upper and lower case letters, numbers, special characters, and phrases. Do not choose a single word that is easily found in a dictionary as your password. Protect your passwords.

**9. Use Anti-Virus and Anti-Spyware Software and a Firewall.** Be sure to update them regularly.

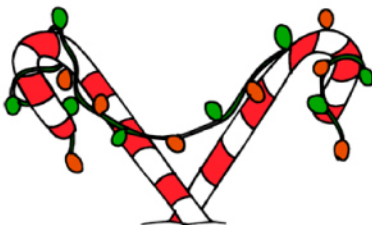
**10. Trust Your Instincts.** If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

Contact Laura Cushler x3509 in the PEO STRI Legal Office for more information. ■

## DECEMBER

### Upcoming Holidays and Events

- Dec 1.....** Colors (all military)
- Dec 4-7.....** I/ITSEC Conference
- Dec 7.....** Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec 16-24.....** Hanukkah
- Dec 22.....** First Day of Winter
- Dec 25.....** Christmas Day
- Dec 31.....** New Year's Eve



By Marge Hadbavny

Proper etiquette builds relationships and personal connections with people.

During the holiday season, remember to:

- ◆ Wish others well
- ◆ Keep a positive attitude
- ◆ Smile at people
- ◆ Respond to party invitations promptly
- ◆ Send thank-you notes
- ◆ Don't panic

If you are in a situation where you don't know the rule, or you don't know what to do, fall back on the three principles of etiquette: *respect, honesty and consideration.*

## HAILS

**Kathryn Dillon**  
PSG

**Emanuel Tornquist III**  
PM ITTS

**Sean Palmer**  
PM CATT

## FAREWELLS

**Joe Baldauf**  
PM ITTS

**Diana Wizimirski**  
PM ITTS



# Team Orlando in Pictures

Photo Courtesy of Lorraine Castillo



Project Manager Instrumentation Targets and Threat Simulators (PM ITTS) relinquished operational responsibility of the Land and Sea Vulnerability Test Capability Littoral Warfare Environment (LWE) to the U.S. Army's Aberdeen Test Center. The LWE is a man-made, state-of-the-art test and training facility that can replicate the littoral region including the sea-to-land interface. A ribbon cutting ceremony signified the transfer of the LWE facility. Left to right: Lorraine C. Castillo, PM ITTS, Sidney Steelman, Aberdeen Test Center, Jerry Sirmans, PM ITTS, Richard Lockhart, Test Resource Management Center, Col. John P. Rooney, Aberdeen Test Center, and Janet Garber, Test and Evaluation Management Agency.

U.S. Army Photo/Heather Kelly



Col. Kevin Dietrick, deputy program executive officer, spoke to the East Orange County Rotary Club members at their weekly meeting in recognition of Veteran's Day.

U.S. Army Photo/Doug Schaub



Lt. Col. Jim Dykes, (left) was promoted Nov. 2 in the company of his family. Col. James R. Ralph, III officiated the promotion ceremony held in the Marroletti Conference Room.



# The PEO STRI



## Employee Spotlight

*Tina Wooding*  
By Kristen Dooley



Courtesy Photo

On any given work day, approximately 20 Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI) employees call the help desk to mitigate their computer troubles.

Each employee receives a friendly "How can I help you?" and then watches their cursor quickly move across the screen as the person on the other end of the phone line controls the mouse... and fixes the problem.

Do you ever wonder who that helpful person is at the other end of the phone line?

Meet Tina.

"I am the type of person who enjoys helping others," said Tina Wooding, one of the three PEO STRI help desk analysts. "I take great pride in my job. Along with that, I enjoy the challenge and the constant change. I am able to learn how to use new equipment and software almost on a daily basis."

Wooding ensures that customers receive assistance with hardware or software problems in a courteous, timely and professional manner.

"Most of the calls are software related," Wooding said. "The most common calls we receive for help have to do with Microsoft Office applications and password problems."

As much as Wooding enjoys helping her fellow co-workers, she said one of the greatest benefits of working at PEO STRI is the ability to help the Soldiers deployed in harms way.

Wooding has better enabled the

Warfighter in this position for the past six years. Before assuming her current position, she worked in the PEO STRI Property Book Office and then, the Asset Management Office.

"The help desk assists PEO STRI's workforce by providing a single contact point for all users of PEO STRI information technology services to direct questions and report problems regarding supported software and hardware," Wooding said. "In response, the help desk will resolve the issue and attempt to help the user maximize their use of applications or equipment."

Wooding's professional goals include taking courses to become more seasoned in Microsoft applications.

"The software is changing and it's good to be refreshed," Wooding asserted.

When Wooding is not working, she will most likely be in the company of her loved ones.

"I enjoy spending time with my family. I love being with my son and spending time with him. I love hanging out and shopping, watching movies, or cooking with my sister. Whether it's at home or going out, I am always with my family. Family is very important to me," Wooding said.

When Wooding is not saving the world, one desktop at a time, she can most often be found laughing and having a good time.

"I don't like stress," concluded Wooding. "I take one day at a time." ■



Courtesy Photo

**Sylvia Salinas**, budget analyst for the Customer Support Group, was selected as the Outstanding Federal Employee of the Week by Federal News Radio AM 1050 Nov. 3. Salinas was nominated by fellow co-worker, Mike Ungerman of Project Manager Field Operations, for her exceptional execution and oversight of all foreign military sales and customer support group funds within the program executive office. To listen to the interview, visit the I/Drive, access the "common" folder, and double-click the file titled "WFED-Salinas.wma."

## INSIDE STRI

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Inside STRI is an authorized publication for military and civilian members of the U.S. Army Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation, Orlando, Fla. 32826. Inside STRI is published under the authority of AR 360-1 and applies the Associated Press Stylebook industry standard.

Contents of Inside STRI are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or PEO STRI.

Editorial material for publication should be submitted to PEO STRI Public Affairs Office, 12351 Research Parkway, Orlando, Fla. 32826. The PAO reserves the right to edit all material submitted for publication.

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